

Inaugural D.A.R.E. program graduates 68 APG youths

Story by
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OC&S

With their parents and community leaders cheering them on, some 68 students graduated May 25 from the APG Youth and Child Development Center’s Drug Abuse Resistance Education program, D.A.R.E.

The nine-session D.A.R.E. program headed by APG Community Police Officer “Big Mike” Farlow warned children against the ills of crime, drug and alcohol use, and the dangers of household cleaners. It also encouraged teamwork, taught how to refuse drugs, and challenged students to write essays about staying drug free.

Col. T. John Wright, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander, opened the ceremony by congratulating the young people and urging them to let the values stressed in the program resonate beyond graduation.

“Stick together to help each other make the right choices,” Wright said.

The graduation’s keynote speaker, Alan Woods III, director of the Maryland Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention, echoed Wright’s sentiments encouraging parents to reinforce the values stressed in the program.

“This is the stuff that helps you make better decisions throughout your entire life,” he said.

Farlow closed the ceremony fighting back tears while thanking his family and reflecting on the success of the program, in which he said his family’s support was critical.

The ceremony was an emotional first for the youth center and for Farlow, which came to fruition after a year in the



Photo by HEATHER TASSMER
Daren the lion, D.A.R.E.’s mascot, shakes hands with Michael Mitchell, a 4-year-old D.A.R.E. graduate, at the Aberdeen Youth Center May 25.

making. After a community survey last year, Farlow said the APG Police restarted a Crime Prevention/Community Policing Unit to better serve the APG population.

One of the unit’s objectives was to focus on community programs and prevention-type training for the younger members of the community.

“The D.A.R.E. program falls right into that area” Farlow said.

Before heading up the program, Farlow was sent to a two-week training program to become a D.A.R.E.-certified officer, after which, he pitched the program to the Child and Youth Services Center staff, who were eager to launch a pilot program. The center will determine the program’s usefulness and decide whether or not to continue it.

“I do believe that the pro-

gram was very successful and I believe we will continue to teach it,” Farlow said.

Judging from the reaction of both the children and parents at the graduation, the program will continue.

Farlow plans to pitch the program to the Edgewood Youth Center and looks forward to next school year’s batch of youngsters.

Farlow said the D.A.R.E. program has paid big dividends in terms of prevention and that he believes it casts police officers in a new light.

“The best takeaway for the children was the opportunity to see the “police” in a different light. Now, instead of being afraid of a police car, or thinking that the police are going to get them, they understand that we are here to protect and serve, and that we are the good guys,” Farlow said.

Concert

From front page

on Billboard’s Hot 100 charts.

Their second album, 1974’s Second Helping, featured their most popular single “Sweet Home Alabama.” The 70’s also produced hits like “Saturday Night Special” and the double-live album One More from the Road, the band’s second Top Ten hit. Lynyrd Skynyrd’s sixth album, Street Survivors, was released in October of 1977. It would be the final album released by

the original line-up.

Lynyrd Skynyrd’s legend was grounded in a plane crash that occurred on Oct. 20, 1977, three days after the release of Street Survivors. A chartered airplane carrying the band between shows from Greenville, S.C., to Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, La., crashed near a forest in Mississippi. The crash killed, Van Zant, guitarist Steve Gaines, vocalist Cassie Gaines, assistant road manager Dean Kilpatrick, pilot Walter McCreary and co-pilot William Gray. Other band members were injured, some

very seriously.

Street Survivors became the band’s second platinum album, and was the #5 top selling album on the U.S. album chart.

The single “What’s Your Name” reached #13 on the single airplay charts in January of 1978.

Lynyrd Skynyrd disbanded after the airplane tragedy. The survivors reunited in 1987 and received an overwhelmingly positive reaction by fans.

Now with several new members the band continues to perform and record new material.

APG News

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Emmorton Elementary students Garrett Kirk, left, and Patrick Hall, mix solutions during an experiment about chemiluminescence, a chemical reaction that makes light. After the solutions were mixed, the scientists turned off the lights so students could see a blue glow.

Emmorton Elementary students explore science through ECBC’s ‘Kids and Chemistry’ program

Story and photos by
HEATHER TASSMER
APG News

The Edgewood Chemical Biological Center’s “Kids and Chemistry” program at Emmorton Elementary School concluded Friday, May 19.

The goal of “Kids and Chemistry” “is to get kids excited and interested in science,” said Suzanne Procell, ECBC’s program director of “Kids and Chemistry.”

“We also teach them how chemistry relates to everyday life,” she said.

“Kids and Chemistry” is a program in which scientists and engineers visit fifth-grade classrooms to teach children about science at Harford County elementary schools. The program runs from September through November and February through May. Three sessions are conducted over a three-week period. Each session lasts an hour.

This partnership program was started in 2000 and is an “outreach program of the American Chemical Society,” according to the ECBC Web site.

The students learned about chemistry through interactive labs. Scientists taught the children about “simple chemical reactions” and how to detect if a chemical reaction has occurred.

Fifth-graders learned about polymers or compounds during the first session of the program, Procell said.

They created polymers through chemical reactions to make slime while completing the “Jiggle Jelly” lab. Many of the students in long-term substitute Kimberly Bodnar’s class said this was their

favorite experiment.

Students also learned about chemical reactions at the first session.

During the second session, scientists taught students about acids and bases and the scientific method in the “What’s in a Color” lab.

“We used markers to decode words,” said fifth-grade student Rachael Ermatinger. “We wrote with a white marker and smeared another marker over it to see what we wrote.”

At the final session of the program, fifth-grade students learned about types of light, color and light, chemical reactions and rates of reaction.

During “The Cool Blue Light” lab, students experimented with chemiluminescence, the students learned that lightning bugs and fireflies light up because of a chemical reaction, bioluminescence.

The students had many positive comments to say about their experiences with the program.

“It was fun and I liked it,” Patrick Hall said. “I liked it when the scientists took the caps off of light bracelets and mixed the liquids to make a pink color.”

“I learned a lot of new science words and how to be a better scientist,” MacKenzie Wilson said. “I liked it when we mixed things to make slime.”

Kim Young has already used what she has learned through the program for her Mother’s Day gift.

“I drew flowers with an invisible marker and wrote ‘You are Special’ for my mother,” she said. “Then I colored over the words.”

Teachers and administrators of the school appreciate the program as well.

“I think it’s wonderful,” Bodnar said. “The kids don’t get a chance to do experiments as hands on [as during the “Kids and Chemistry session] here when they learn about science.”

Bodnar, one of four fifth-grade teachers, said the classes alternate learning between social studies and science. She said the fifth graders are learning about social studies now so “it’s nice to have a mix.”

Peggy Kirk, the principal of Emmorton Elementary, said she hasn’t had a chance to witness the students’ experiments but she’s heard positive things from teachers and students.

“Edith Buckler, the assistant principal, went to see them for a day and she said the kids were really engaged and enjoyed the activities,” Kirk said.

The program is beneficial for the students because “science is an important part of their future,” Kirk said.

“It gives them a chance to explore and enjoy learning about science,” she said.

Procell is responsible for beginning the “Kids and Chemistry” program at ECBC. She found out about it from a conference she attended and was inspired to begin one at ECBC. After receiving permission from Jim Zarzycki, director, ECBC, and discussing it with administrators of Harford County schools, the program was “launched on a trial basis in 2000,” according to Procell. ECBC scientists and the school administrators decided to continue it because of its overall success.

In addition to Procell, fourteen scientists from ECBC instruct “Kids and Chemistry.” They are Chris Gaughan, Debbie Huffman, Dr. Marla DeLucia, Dan Nowak, Elaina Taylor, Lisa Neuendorff, Emily Davis, Lou Kosydar, Renee Anderson, Dr. Mike Simini, Robyn Little, Erin Shockley, Barry Williams, a contractor through EAI, and Jen Wolfe Pupa. Anderson’s mother, Barb Korach, volunteered to see what the program was about. Another volunteer was Barbara Wolfe of the U.S. Army Research Laboratory.

Procell said “Kids and Chemistry” “hasn’t changed much over the years.”

“The program used to include a food lab but we retired it due to stricter food restrictions in schools,” Procell said.

In addition, ECBC scientists have added more demonstrations during the “Cool Blue Light” lab and raised money so that students could bring home chromatography kits.

“This allows them to share what they’ve learned with their families,” Procell said.



Barry Williams, a chemist from the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, instructs students on mixing chemicals for an experiment.